

Appl. No. : 10/642,773
Filed : August 18, 2003

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and the following remarks are responsive to the August 24, 2004 Office Action. Claims 21, 22, 32, and 33 are cancelled without prejudice, Claims 1, 11, 13, 14, 23, 29-31, and 34 are amended, and Claims 2-10, 12, 15-20, and 24-28 remain as previously presented. Therefore, Claims 1-20, 23-31, and 34 are presented herein for further consideration. Please enter the amendments and reconsider the claims in view of the following remarks.

Comments on Amendments to Claims 1, 11, 13, 14, 23, 29-31, and 34

Applicant has amended Claims 1, 11, 13, and 14 to correct various informalities. Each of Claims 1 and 11 has been amended to include the word "and." Claim 13 has been amended to replace a period with a comma. Claim 14 has been amended to provide a period.

In addition, Applicant has amended Claims 23, 29-31, and 34 to be in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant submits that none of these amendments introduce new matter. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner pass these claims to allowance.

Comments on Allowable Subject Matter

In the August 24, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner indicates that Claims 1-20 are allowed over the prior art. The Examiner also objects to Claims 23-31 and 34 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that Claims 23-31 and 34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the allowability of Claims 1-20, 23-31, and 34. As described herein, Applicant has amended Claims 23, 29-31, and 34 to be in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Each of Claims 24-28 depend from Claim 23, so each of Claims 24-28 includes all the limitations of Claim 23, as well as other limitations of particular utility.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to Claims 23-31 and 34, and pass these claims to allowance.

Response to Rejection of Claims 21, 22, 32, and 33 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the August 24, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 21, 22, 32, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,385,020 issued to Gwilliam et al. ("Gwilliam").

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As described herein, Applicant has cancelled Claims 21, 22, 32, and 33 without prejudice. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reaffirm the allowability of the remaining pending claims.

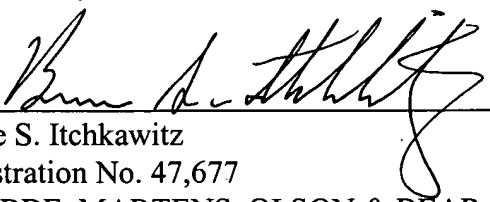
Summary

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that Claims 1-20, 23-31, and 34 are in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests such action.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 11/24/04

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